

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

Rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-4 presently stand rejected as anticipated by Sano (U.S. 6,859,106). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application has a foreign priority date that predates the critical reference date of Sano. The present application has a priority date under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of December 31, 2002, corresponding to the right of priority of Taiwanese application 091138144. The Examiner is encouraged to review the claim of foreign priority of the present application as indicated on the Application Data Sheet filed with the application on December 15, 2003.

It is respectfully submitted that the Taiwanese application 091138144 fully supports the subject matter recited in claims 1-4 of the present application. An English language translation of the Taiwanese application 091138144 is submitted herewith, together with a statement that the translation of the original text of the Taiwanese application 091138144 is accurate.

In view of the right of priority of the present application that predates the critical reference date of the disclosure of Sano, it is clear that the teachings of Sano are not available as prior art to reject the claims of the present application. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4 of the present application by Sano is improper, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Acknowledgement of priority

Submitted herewith is a copy of the filing receipt card for the present application, indicating that a certified copy of the Taiwan application 091138144 was submitted with the present application and that priority is claimed.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f), and receipt of certified copies of the priority documents, in the next Official Action.

Conclusion

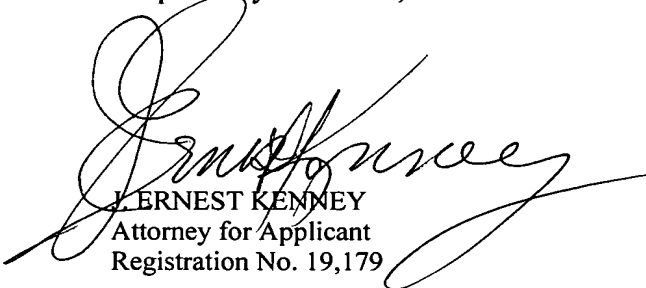
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-4 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1176
Phone: (703) 683-0500

Date: August 10, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



J. ERNEST KENNEY
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 19,179